In the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said dosage form is a tablet.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein the polymer matrix hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose is present in an amount of from about 20% to 40% by weight of the composition.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ method of claim 3 wherein said polymer matrix has a viscosity of from about 100 to about 100,000 cps.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the active ingredient is present in the unit dosage form in an amount of about 150-400 mg.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is suffering from acute pain and the unit dosage form is administered once or twice a day.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 where the patient is suffering from minor pain and the unit dosage form is administered once a day.

9. (Cancelled)

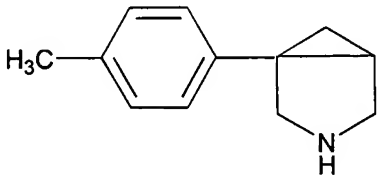
10. (Previously Presented) The unit oral dosage form of claim 16 wherein said composition is in the form of a tablet.

11. (Previously Presented) The unit dosage form of claim 16 wherein the hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose polymer matrix is present in an amount of from about 20% to 40% by weight of this composition.

12. (Previously Presented) The unit dosage form of claim 16 wherein said polymer matrix has a viscosity of from about 100 to about 100,000 cps.

13. (Previously Presented) The unit dosage form of claim 10 wherein said active ingredient is present in an amount of 200 mg to 400 mg.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing pain in a patient in need of said treatment comprising orally administering to said patient in a unit oral dosage form a composition containing from about 25 to 600 mg. of an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula



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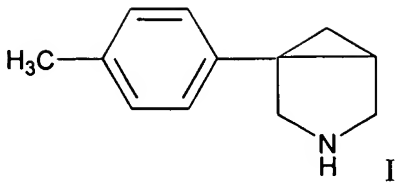
and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

and from about 15% to 50% by weight, of said composition of a hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose hydrophilic slow release polymer matrix, said unit dosage being orally administered to said patient from once to twice a day.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the unit dosage form contains a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier composition containing dibasic calcium phosphate.

16. (Currently Amended) A unit oral dosage form comprising a composition containing from about 25 to 600 ~~mg.~~ mg of an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of a compound of the formula



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and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

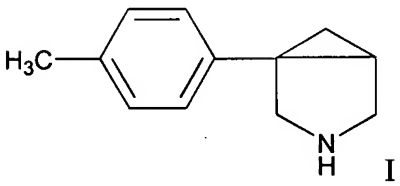
from about 15% to about 50% of weight of said composition of a hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose hydrophilic slow release polymer matrix.

17. (Previously Presented) The unit dosage form of claim 16 wherein said dosage form contains a pharmaceutically carrier composition containing calcium phosphate.

18. (Previously Presented) The unit dosage form of claim 17 wherein said carrier is present in an amount of from about 40% to 60% by weight of said composition.

19. (New) A method for eliciting analgesia in a mammalian subject, comprising:

administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in a daily dosing regimen consisting of one or two doses of the compound of formula I per day, which is effective to elicit analgesia in the subject over approximately a 24 hour period.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of the compound of formula I is between about 200-600 mg.

21. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of the compound of formula I is about 100 mg, about 200 mg, about 400 mg, or about 600 mg.

22. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable salts are selected from the group consisting of hydrochloride, phosphate, citrate, fumarate, maleate, succinate, pamoate, and sulfate acid-addition salts.

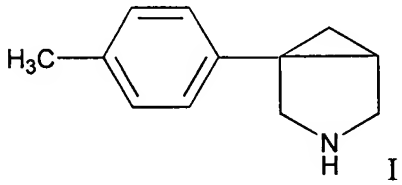
23. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said compound of formula I is formulated with a sustained release vehicle in an oral dosage composition which, following administration of the composition to a mammalian subject provides not less than 10% of the compound of formula I released within 15 minutes and not less than 50% of the compound of formula I released within 4 hours and not less than 85% by weight of the compound of formula I released within 12 hours, and effectively elicits analgesia in the subject over approximately a 24 hour period.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said sustained release vehicle is a sustained release polymer.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said sustained release polymer is a polyacrylic acid polymer or hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose polymer.

26. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a pre-determined dosage amount of an active ingredient selected from a compound of Formula I



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and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; and

a sustained release vehicle,

which, following administration of the composition to a mammalian subject provides not less than 10% of the active ingredient released within 15 minutes and not less than 50% of the active ingredient released within 4 hours and not less than 85% by

weight of the active ingredient released within 12 hours, and effectively elicits analgesia in the subject over approximately a 24 hour period.

27. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein said pre-determined dosage amount of the active ingredient is between about 200-600 mg.

28. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein said pre-determined dosage amount of the active ingredient is about 100 mg, about 200 mg, about 400 mg, or about 600 mg.

29. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable salts are selected from the group consisting of hydrochloride, phosphate, citrate, fumarate, maleate, succinate, pamoate, and sulfate acid-addition salts.

30. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein said compound of formula I is formulated with a sustained release vehicle in an oral dosage composition which, following administration of the composition to a mammalian subject provides not less than 10% of the compound of formula I released within 15 minutes and not less than 50% of the compound of formula I released within 4 hours and not less than 85% by weight of the compound of formula I released within 12 hours, and effectively elicits analgesia in the subject over approximately a 24 hour period.

31. (New) The composition of claim 30, wherein said sustained release vehicle is a sustained release polymer.

32. (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein said sustained release polymer is a polyacrylic acid polymer or hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose polymer.